



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 72-HOUR REPORT

3 AUGUST 2020

### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Riverside – Southern California “Apple Fire” Forces Nearly 8,000 to Evacuate

(U) Nearly 8,000 residents of Riverside County in Southern California were forced to evacuate their homes on Saturday as a wildfire spread uncontained across more than 4,000 acres, the County fire department said. The fire, dubbed the Apple Fire by local firefighters - who routinely give blazes identifying names - was reported Friday in Cherry Valley, a community about 75 miles east of Los Angeles and had destroyed at least one family home as of Saturday evening.

SOURCE: 1 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

#### (U) Sacramento – California Judge Denies Bail for Researcher Over China Ties

(U) A federal judge in California denied a bail request for a university researcher accused of lying about her ties to China's military and Communist Party to gain access to the United States. US Magistrate Judge Deborah Barnes said that 37-year-old Juan Tang “would have every reason to leave” the country if released on bail. The former Chinese researcher at the University of California Davis has been held without bail at the Sacramento County Main Jail since July 23. Tang was arrested by FBI agents when she left the Chinese consulate in San Francisco to visit a doctor, authorities said.

SOURCE: 2 August 2020, [AP](#)

#### (U) San Diego – Two Bodies Found Near Panga Boat Overturns Near Ocean Beach

(U) Two men were found dead in the water Sunday in Ocean Beach near an overturned panga boat, authorities said. The boat was found near Brighton Avenue at about 4 a.m., according to a US Border Patrol spokesman. The San Diego Police Department and lifeguards responded to the scene and discovered the capsized boat along with two men in the water. The Border Patrol also found six life vests scattered along the beach and personal effects in the boat. Nobody else was found in the area.

SOURCE: 2 August 2020, [Times of San Diego](#)

#### (U) San Francisco – Three Individuals Charged for Alleged Roles in Twitter Hack

(U) Mason Sheppard, aka “Chaewon,” 19, of Bognor Regis, in the United Kingdom, was charged in a criminal complaint with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and the intentional access of a protected computer. Nima Fazeli, aka “Rolex,” 22, of Orlando, Florida, was also charged with aiding and abetting the intentional access of a protected computer. The third defendant is a juvenile. As alleged in the complaints, the Twitter attack consisted of a combination of technical breaches and social engineering. The result of the Twitter hack was the compromise of approximately 130 Twitter accounts pertaining to politicians, celebrities, and musicians.

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [US DOJ](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – President Trump Announces Potential Ban on Chinese-Owned Video App

(U) Washington – President Trump on Friday announced that he will act soon to ban Chinese-owned video app TikTok from the United States. Discussions of a ban have been coupled with reports that Microsoft or other companies may potentially buy the US operations of the app. Officials in Washington

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have become increasingly concerned that the Chinese government could get access to information about Americans who use TikTok because of the app's Chinese ownership. TikTok has repeatedly denied that it is influenced by Beijing.

SOURCE: 1 August 2020, [New York Times](#)

### **(U) Florida – Officer Injured, Two Others Wounded in Florida Shooting**

(U) Tampa – A Florida man is in custody after he went on a 40-minute shooting spree on a Tampa highway and city streets where he fired on at least 11 people, wounding two adults, and injuring a police officer. None of the injuries were life-threatening. The suspect is being held at the Hillsborough County Jail without bond Friday. Jail records show he is facing charges of attempted murder on a law enforcement officer, attempted murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and shooting into a vehicle.

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [Click Orlando](#)

### **(U) Georgia – Three Inmates, Two Staff Injured in Disturbance at Ware State Prison**

(U) Waycross – Three inmates and two staff members were injured during unrest at a state prison in Southeast Georgia that began Saturday night, according to the Georgia Department of Corrections. A golf cart was set on fire and windows were smashed during the melee at Ware State Prison, and officers had to deploy “non-lethal ammunition” to bring the scene under control. Authorities reported there was “no major damage to the facility” and that none of the injuries were life-threatening.

SOURCE: 2 August 2020, [News4Jax](#)

### **(U) Massachusetts – Boston Marathon Bomber’s Death Sentence Overturned by Federal Court**

(U) Boston – A federal appeals court on Friday overturned the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man convicted in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing that killed three people and injured more than 260 others. The judges said that this doesn’t mean Tsarnaev will be freed from the supermax prison in Colorado where he has been confined. Tsarnaev’s lawyers had argued that intense media coverage had made it impossible to have a fair trial in Boston. They also pointed to social media posts from two jurors suggesting they harbored strong opinions even before the 2015 trial started. The ruling nevertheless stated that Dzhokhar will spend his remaining days imprisoned.

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [CBS Boston](#)

### **(U) Oregon – Portland Man Charged for July Arson Attack at Federal Courthouse**

(U) Portland – Gabriel Agard-Berryhill, 18, has been charged by criminal complaint with using fire to maliciously damage the Mark O. Hatfield US Courthouse in downtown Portland on 28 July 2020. According to court documents, at approximately 11:50 p.m., security cameras at the Hatfield Federal Courthouse captured footage of a large incendiary object enter the building’s portico area and land near plywood sheeting affixed to the building’s façade. A few seconds later, the object exploded, igniting a fire near the building’s main entrance. Arson is punishable by up to 20 years in prison with a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years.

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [US DOJ](#)

### **(U) Oregon – Several US Marshals Injured by Homemade Weapons in Portland Attacks**

(U) Portland – Bricks, batteries, frozen water bottles, sling shots with ball bearings and even feces were among the homemade weapons thrown at a group of federal marshals in Portland, Oregon. At least 20 deputies from the US Marshals Service have been injured over more than two months of guarding the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, a focal point of violent protests which began after the May death of George Floyd in police custody.

SOURCE: 1 August 2020, [New York Post](#)

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**(U) Washington – Seattle Police Find Explosives in Van at Protests Last Weekend**

(U) Seattle – Seattle Police discovered explosives, smoke bombs, and other weapons in a van stationed at the 25 July protests in the city. Saturday's demonstration, promoted by the Youth Liberation Front in support of protesters in Portland, erupted in violence. At approximately 4:30pm, officers saw a van following a group of protesters before it stopped outside the East Precinct. A witness later told police they had seen baseball bats and explosives inside the same van earlier in the day. Police later impounded the van and, after obtaining a search warrant, discovered firework pyrotechnics, smoke bombs, stun guns, bear and pepper spray, makeshift spike strips, and gas masks. No arrests have been made in connection to the explosives in the van.

SOURCE: 30 July 2020, [Seattle Times](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Afghanistan – More Than 300 Prisoners Freed Following ISIS-Claimed Attack on Prison**

(U) Jalalabad – More than 300 prisoners were at large on Monday after an attack by the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) militant group on an Afghan prison, a government spokesman said on Monday, as clashes reportedly continued between prisoners and security forces. The assault began Sunday night on the jail with at least 29 people killed and more than 50 wounded. Of the 1,793 prisoners, just over 1,025 who tried to escape have been recaptured, and 430 had remained inside the prison. The rest are still missing.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Mexico – Santa Rosa de Lima Cartel Chief Detained**

(U) Mexico City – Mexican authorities on Sunday arrested the leader of the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel, a gang known for stealing millions of dollars of fuel from government pipelines and for turning once-peaceful Guanajuato state into one of the most dangerous regions in the country. Videos show the pre-dawn capture by federal and state authorities of José Antonio Yépez Ortiz, who is known by the alias "El Marro," which means "the Sledgehammer." He was detained along with five others in a raid that authorities said also freed a kidnapped businesswoman.

SOURCE: 2 August 2020, [LA Times](#)

**(U) North Korea – Hackers Target US Defense and Aerospace Companies**

(U) Pyongyang – Security experts from McAfee uncovered a new cyber-espionage campaign carried out by North Korean hackers that targeted the US defense and aerospace sectors. Threat actors used fake job offers to deceive employees looking for new opportunities and compromise the network of their organizations. The campaign tracked 'Operation North Star,' was active between late March and May 2020. Researchers noted that the Operation North Star tactics are very similar to those observed in 2017 and 2019 campaigns that targeted key military and defense technologies.

SOURCE: 30 July 2020, [Security Affairs](#)

**(U) Pakistan – Police Kill Five Separatists, Foil Attacks**

(U) Multan – Counterterrorism police acting on intelligence raided a suspected militant hideout in a remote town in eastern Pakistan early Friday, triggering a shootout that killed five members of a separatist group. Officers seized a bomb and weapons from the hideout of the slain men. The raid foiled possible terrorist attacks on gas pipelines and railway tracks by members of the Baluch Republican Army, a small separatist group operating in southwestern Baluchistan province for the past several years.

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [AP](#)

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### **(U) United Kingdom – Case of Islamic State Recruit’s UK Citizenship Goes to Supreme Court**

(U) London – The UK Supreme Court will examine the case of a British-born woman who went to Syria as a schoolgirl to join ISIS, after the government appealed against a court decision to allow her to return to Britain to fight for her citizenship. Shamima Begum left London in 2015 when she was 15 and went to Syria via Turkey with two school friends. In Syria, she married an Islamic State fighter and lived in the capital of the violent jihadist group’s self-declared caliphate. She was discovered in 2019 in a detention camp in Syria. Britain stripped her of her citizenship, saying she was a security threat. The Court of Appeal in London ruled that Begum should be allowed to return to Britain to challenge that decision, a ruling the government described as “very disappointing.”

SOURCE: 31 July 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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